

to apportion this debt amongst the successor States; [Translation]

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it is proposed to abrogate the Indo-Soviet protocol signed in November, 1978;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether any decision has been taken on Russian Rupee account being maintained in Indian banks; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) As on 31-1-1992 the total outstanding debt on Government account of the erstwhile Soviet Union was Rubles 970.58 million equivalent to approximately Rs. 3065.22 crores converted at the rate of exchange of Ruble 1 equal to Rs. 31.7874.

(b) and (c). It is for the Government of India to apportion this debt amongst the successor States. The division of the assets and liabilities of the former USSR is a matter to be settled by the successor States themselves.

(d) and (e). Two rounds of negotiations were held with the former USSR on the revision of the Indo-Soviet Protocol signed in November, 1978. The negotiations have been inconclusive.

(f) and (g). The Government of India and the Government of the Russian Federation signed a Protocol on 22-2-1992 on trade turnover and payments in 1992. The Protocol provides for Russian Rupee Accounts being maintained in Indian banks.

### Vacant Posts of Accountant Member in Income-Tax appellate Tribunal

1959 SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN; Will the Minister if LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of posts of Accountant Member in Income-Tax Appellate Tribunal lying vacant at present;

(b) since when these posts are laying vacant and the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of such members who belong to reserved categories; and

(d) if no member belongs to any reserved category, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the government to fill up these posts from Scheduled Castes/Tribes?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI K. VJAYA BHASKARA REDDY): (a) Ten posts of Accounts Members are lying vacant at present, seven of which belong to reserved categories (5 SCs and 2 STs).

(b) These vacancies pertain to the year 1990, 1991 and 1992. The Selection Board constituted in 1990 could not find suitable candidates for filling up all the reserved posts. The vacancies have been re-advertised and a new Selection Board has been constituted for selecting suitable candidates belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The selection process is in progress. Action is also underway for filling up the posts which belong to open category.

(c) and (d). There are 6 Account Members belonging to reserved categories, three belonging to the Scheduled Castes and three to the Scheduled Tribes.